

To Chairman Genachowski and whomever this may concern at the FCC,

If you visit InternetForEveryone.org operated by FreePress.Net the same nonprofit public interest lobbying group that started the SaveTheInternet.com campaign urging your agency to save the Open Internet by restoring Network Neutrality rules -- a request to your agency I also support you will find at the bottom of the homepage a national map of all 50 U.S. states. If you select any of these 50 states you will be presented information from the U.S. Census Bureau's Current Population Survey projecting how many people in each state have access to broadband and how many don't have access to broadband.

In some states the percentage of homes without broadband is worse than other states. As the FCC seeks to implement its new National Broadband Plan it should carefully review the Plan its crafted and submitted to ensure none of the data about broadband usage in the Plan is flawed, and if so make revisions in the needed areas. As the FCC seeks to codify Net Neutrality rules it as noted must also reassert its legal authority to do so by reclassifying broadband a telecommunications service, which would also enable your agency to protect its legal authority to implement The National Broadband Plan. Future mega mergers between ISPs should be rejected by the FCC and government antitrust regulators. Comcast NBC Universal which would see a service provider merge with a content company should be rejected due to such a deal creating a huge conflict of interest for the two companies once combined. Already Comcast unfortunately has a conflict of interest in blocking or slowing down users access to Internet Protocol Television services that compete with Comcast's own digital cable TV service, however that conflict of interest will grow and become more problematic if Comcast NBC Universal is approved. We need more competition and more choices not less. To that end I've already submitted public comments some time ago to the FCC docket concerning Comcast NBC Universal.

It is not enough though for the FCC to regulate broadband it must enforce the regulations to ensure we have a competitive climate of affordable broadband providers and that they are unable to discriminate against Internet users.

Going back to the national map InternetForEveryone.org has of statistics from the U.S. Census Bureau for the year 2007 if you look at the State of Arizona the projected number of people in the state without broadband in 2007 was 3,083,400. At the same time the percentage of homes with broadband was 53.9% California was slightly better as the number of people with broadband that year was projected to be 16,654,500. The percentage of homes in California with broadband was 56.4%. New Mexico though was a lot worse as the projected number of people in 2007 with broadband was merely 1,208,600 which means the percentage of homes without broadband in 2007 was 43.2%. Texas had 13,040,800 people with broadband in 2007 and a percentage of 47.6% of homes that year without broadband. If you visit InternetForEveryone.org and select each state on

this map individually you can get the statistics for each of the 50 states showing how many homes have broadband and how many lack it.

What we want and need from the National Broadband Plan are the following:

ACCESS: Every home, business and civic institution in America must have access to a high-speed, world-class communications infrastructure.

CHOICE: Every Internet user must enjoy real choice in online content as well as among high-speed Internet providers to achieve lower prices and faster speeds.

OPENNESS: This is where Net Neutrality comes in! (should also apply to wireless providers so mobile Internet has same protections for users) Every Internet user should have the right to freedom of speech and commerce online in an open market without gatekeepers or discrimination.

INNOVATION: The Internet should continue to create good jobs, foster entrepreneurship, spread new ideas and serve as a leading engine of economic growth.

As noted in past public comment filings I've made when former President George W. Bush entered office the U.S. was ranked 4th in the world in terms of broadband Internet penetration and had inherited a National Broadband Plan from the Clinton Gore Administration's FCC. The Bush Administration as part of their economic policies of deregulation tragically chose to deregulate broadband on such a massive scale and to allow mega mergers that have resulted in less competition, consumer choice and poorer quality service for broadband users than before Mr. Bush entered office. We need to return broadband in America to the type of regulation we had in the 1990s.

We can continue to encourage innovation with some regulation and if possible breakup the incumbent phone and cable duopoly so we can have more competition and consumer choice when choosing high speed Internet providers. InternetForEveryone.org has a page titled America Offline (<http://www.internetforeveryone.org/americaooffline>) on which they have stories from people that have suffered because of the Digital Divide. By 2006-2007 the U.S. was ranked 16th or 17th place in the world in terms of broadband Internet penetration -- as competition between providers reduced as (big providers were allowed to merge) and they increased prices deployment of high speed Internet services slowed as did adoption in areas where high speed Internet service was available.

We should all be able to have equal, affordable access to high speed Internet regardless of income level, gender, age, skin color, national origin, disability, sexual orientation, race, etc. Minorities and people living in rural areas should not be discriminated against and be able to have the same level of access as Americans living in urban areas with higher incomes. You know the corporate news media likes to talk about moral values but ignores income inequality, the Digital Divide and other critical issues of poverty in America, homelessness, as well as global poverty and homelessness. Enough

is enough we need to have policies in place to encourage and expand deployment and adoption of competitive, affordable high speed Internet service. The status quo today on broadband access is unacceptable. I have often written about how an Open Internet benefits commerce, innovation, minorities, the U.S. in global competition, allows the free flow of information online to continue as well as telecommunication.

Therefore, we need the open Internet to remain free and open to all to use unfettered of any restrictions by corporate gatekeepers and we need to expand access to those currently disenfranchised from accessing it. Make universal access to broadband a public right. Make this public utility universally available and affordable to all Americans. The incumbents have even opposed some city governments trying to expand access to the Internet on their own by wiring their communities when the incumbent's wouldn't. Enough is enough if they don't want to expand deployment of high speed Internet service in communities they've previously left unserved they can't be allowed to stop us from doing it ourselves.